



*Dr. Mary L. Livers, Deputy Secretary*

Time sure flies when you're having fun, and here at OJJ we must be having a ball. It's August. School is back in for K-12 kids, the colleges and universities are gearing up for the fall semester (can tailgating and pigskins be far behind?) and we are moving forward with our plans for regionalization and continued reform. When you think "fall" you think about the year ripening and the harvest we will reap. I think we are having a good year, and it will get even better as it draws to a close.

Swanson and Bridge City have both advanced to Level 2 in CJCA's Performance Based Standards (PbS) program. This means they have met the basic requirements for sample size and compiling data for their Performance Profiles. Level 2 will focus on critical outcome measures. Jetson gets back in the game and will be back in PbS beginning in the October data collection cycle. Not only that, the secure care facilities are pursuing ACA Accreditation and will join Field Services and central office in attaining that distinction.

As you can see in the pages that follow in this edition of *The Inside Scoop...of OJJ*, we are a busy agency but we also know how to take time to express our appreciation for one another and the work we do together to meet the mission. We have a lot to be proud of, and I am very proud of every staff member in every office and facility.

I am very proud to be a part of the OJJ team and to serve alongside you.

*"Doc" Dr. Mary L. Livers*

## Soul Food

An inspirational column by OJJ staff



**Former Bridge City  
Chaplain Beulah Moore**

"He comes quickly and His reward is in His hand."

There are strong connections between faith, ambition, and productivity. The person who really believes he is going to succeed goes the extra mile, applies himself, is extremely productive, and stands out from everybody else.

There was a little boy who wanted to be rich when he grew up. He noticed a man who drove a big expensive car, and always stopped at a construction shack next to a highrise building that was going up downtown.

One day the little boy went up to the rich man and said, "Sir, excuse me, but can you tell me how I can be rich like you when I grew up?" The man, impressed by the boy's ambitious attitude, said, "Simple, son, buy a blue shirt and work like it all depends on you." The man continued, "You see, I am a developer. I buy property, buildings, and sell them. When I started out I decided that if I wanted to get ahead, I'd have to work a little earlier, and stay a little longer. But I also decided my efforts should be noticed. All the workers wore red shirts with overalls. So I bought a blue shirt! The boss noticed me. And I was rewarded! That's my advice to you, son."

The Creator has promised that He will reward the good worker. "For He is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love, which you have shown toward His name." He is faithful and just!

Remember:  
Never invite a negative- thinking person to the power center of your life.

Never appoint a dyed-in-the-wool impossibility thinker to be a member of an important committee.

Never create a platform for enemies to launch their proposals or projects.

Don't fret over the frivolous and get tense over the trivial.

The Creator never promised to deliver an answer to prayer according to our timetables.

Now, faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. He rewards every person for his righteousness and faithfulness. Great is His faithfulness, His hand has already provided for you.

*Rev. Beulah Moore has left Bridge City for another opportunity, but she provided this column before she left.*

## THE DAILY MOTIVATOR

### Give your best

Something magical happens when you put your focus on helping someone else. All your own worries, fears, concerns and doubts disappear. By forgetting yourself you discover the best you can be. In sincerely seeking to give value, you bring great value into your own life.

Give, not because it looks good or even because it feels good. Give, because it fulfills your deepest purpose and brings you completely to life.

Seize the opportunities to be of value and to be of service. Live and act beyond yourself, and it opens your eyes to whole new realms and levels of possibilities.

With your sincerest actions, acknowledge and celebrate the connection you have to all others. In that connection you'll find a limitless source of joy and fulfillment.

Give your best. And you truly become your best.

-- Ralph Marston

### ***Fostering Our OJJ Leaders***

By Fran Martin, Director of Staff Development

OJJ is in the process of developing a leadership training series for supervisors in our secure care facilities and regional offices. Sessions will be designed to enhance the knowledge, skills and abilities of our OJJ leadership in communicating and implementing the mission, vision and guiding principles effectively. Training sessions will be scheduled quarterly for current supervisors and twice a year for new supervisors. All facility and regional office staff responsible for developing staff, staff accountability and staff performance will attend the training series.

A major emphasis of the training will be the incorporation of the five leadership practices from *The Leadership Challenge*, by James Kouzes and Barry Posner. This book is a recognized "field guide" for leadership development, and was the focus of the recent OJJ Leadership Retreats in March and June of this year.

Topics of sessions for new supervisors include transitioning into the role of a supervisor/manager and management issues, such as the PPR process, CPTP requirements, time and attendance, scheduling staff, ACA standards and developing a leadership style. For current supervisors, topics include developing personal leadership strengths and an effective management style and successfully managing both people and resources. Responsibilities required of supervisors/managers, such as planning, organizing, directing, implementing and evaluating will be explored in the series of training sessions.

OJJ is looking forward to providing a training program that will help supervisors recognize and improve their leadership skills and abilities. Other suggested topics of interest that will be a part of the series include: communication strategies, building a highly

motivated team with a high level of performance, effective problem solving and decision making skills, ethical behavior, managing time, priorities and projects, and stress management. Using coaching as an effective tool for improving employee performance and specific coaching techniques will be emphasized throughout the training.

Further information about the leadership training series will be available as details are finalized. Please contact Fran Martin at [fran.martin@la.gov](mailto:fran.martin@la.gov) with any questions or suggestions.

### ***Just When You Thought it was Safe to Open Your Inbox.....Policy, Policy, Policy and More Policy***

By Lynne Geromini, Administrative Program Director, CQIS

Just when you thought it was safe to open your Inbox and NOT have an e-mail from Phyllis Martello with a new or revised policy attached.....here comes *The Inside Scoop*!

Policy. There is absolutely no way around it. It's a part of our day-to-day business, our course of action that is intended to influence us when making decisions. Can you imagine the chaos without these black and white documents guiding you? I, for one, would not know that *my* needing a pen or a note pad *does not* constitute an emergency situation, according to YS Policy A.3.7 Procurement of Supplies and Equipment. We have all been there at one time or another and just cannot fathom someone not coming to our aid in our time of crisis!

Beginning with this edition of *The Inside Scoop...of OJJ*, CQIS has vowed to keep everyone informed and up-to-date on new policies, revised policies and archived policies through this means. This edition contains *all 98* policies that have either been approved or archived by "Doc" since her appointment as

Deputy Secretary of OJJ. Future editions will contain changes since the previous edition.

Further, I would like to invite all OJJ staff to re-read YS Policy A.1.1 “Policy and Correspondence Distribution” and to begin utilizing Attachment A.1.1(c) “Policy Development, Revision and Annual Review” form on a regular basis. This form is for **YOU**, as an OJJ staff member, to inform **CQIS**, who then informs **Executive Staff**, of issues that need to be looked at, or new issues of which we need to be made aware. Trust me when I say that we learn something new every day. Working on policy is a non-stop business, and when you read them by the stacks, day in and day out, things slip by. Please, use the form as it was intended. Sure, e-mail works, but having the actual form utilized would be a nice change of pace.

If CQIS can be of any further service to you as far as policies go, let us know. And, the next time you open your Inbox and see Phyllis’ name, don’t sigh, we can hear you..... ☺

Below is a listing of policies and the approval date.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE**

A.1. Policy & Correspondence Distribution, 3-12-09  
 A.1.3 Organizational Overview, 2-18-09  
 A.1. Risk Management, 3-10-09  
 A.1.8 Emergency Operations Plan, 2-12-09  
 A.2.1 Employee Manual, 05-18-09  
 A.2.2 Pay Administration & Management, 5-6-09  
 A.2.3 Compensation for Other Employment, 8-14-08  
 A.2.6 Requirement of Physician’s Certification for Sick Leave Usage, 7-22-09  
 A.2.8 Sexual Harassment, 5-26-09  
 A.2.9 Senior Executive Services, 0-10-09  
 A.2.11 Employee Assistance Program, 12-10-08  
 A.2.12 Personnel Records, 5-27-09  
 A.2.13 Americans with Disabilities Act (Employees, Applicants, Candidates, Visitors), 5-29-09  
 A.2.14 Facility Staffing, 5-29-09

A.2.16 Tobacco Free & No-Smoking Policy, 10-22-08

A.2.18 Criminal Record Check, 5-29-09

A.2.23 Position Descriptions, 4-20-09

A.2.24 Staff Development & Training Plan, 5-29-09

**A.2.25 Archived (Internal Correspondence Course Training), 6-11-09**

A.2.26 Hiring and/or Promotional Interviews, 2-16-09

A.2.27 Selective Service Registration, 8-14-08

A.2.30 Mail Precautions, 4-29-09

A.2.32 Certification of Compliance and Internal Controls for all Personnel Actions, 12-10-08

A.2.33 Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment, Rights, 12-10-08

A.2.37 Separation for Unscheduled Absences, 5-26-09

A.2.40 Probationary Period, 7-10-09

A.2.41 Verification of Credentials, 12-10-08

A.2.42 Leave Approval for Employees Prior to Retirement, 9-12-08

A.2.43 Employee Subpoenas, Notices of Hearing, Discovery, & Legal Correspondence, 1-29-09

A.2.45 Performance Planning & Review, 7-13-09

A.2.46 Employee Grievance Procedure, 5-29-09

A.2.47 Equal Employment Opportunity, 1-20-09

A.2.48 Driver Safety Program, 4-09-09

A.2.49 Worker’s Compensation, 1-22-09

A.2.51 Telecommuting & Alternative Work Site Policy, 5-18-09

A.2.53 Reduction in Force Procedure & Scoring Guide for Educators, 3-16-09

A.2.54 Attainment of One Year Certificate in Juvenile Justice, 8-5-09

A.2.56 Central Office Dress Code, 8-6-09

A.2.58 Crisis Leave Program, 8-5-09

A.3.1 Asset Management, 1-29-09

A.3.2 Travel, 7-24-09

A.3.7 Procurement of Supplies & Equipment, 5-6-09

A.3.8 Budget Fiscal Management Activities, 5-26-09

A.3.9 Special Funds, 3-04-09

A.3.10 Lacerate Purchasing Card, 5-6-09

A.4.1 Contract Manual, 5-12-09



A.4.3 Standard Operating Procedures for Providers of Female Residential Treatment Programs, 5-11-09

A.5.1 Use of Information Technology Systems, 12-19-08

A.5.2 Access to and Use of Computers Assigned to Employees, 7-10-09

**A.5.3 Rescinded (Evaluating Overall Performance and Measuring the Effectiveness of the Information Systems) Combined w/ A.5.1, 12-19-08**

A.5.6 Internet and Email Usage, 8-14-08

A.5.8 Blackberry Usage, 7-10-09

A.6.1 Housing Perquisites, 7-17-09

A.7.1 Safety Plan, 03-4-09

A.7.2 Freon Recovery–Certification of Technicians & Recovery Equipment, 3-4-09

A.7.3 Facility Design, 4-29-09

#### **CLASSIFICATION, SENTENCING, AND SERVICE FUNCTIONS**

B.2.1 Assignment, Reassignment, Release & Discharge of Youth, 5-29-09

B.2.2 Youth Classification System, 5-29-09

B.2.3 Direct Admission, 12-17-08

B.3.1 Composition/Location/Retention of Active & Inactive Youth Records, 5-29-09

B.3.2 Access to and Release of Active & Inactive Youth Records, 7-22-09

B.5.1 Youth Code of Conduct, 5-29-09

B.5. Educational Policy, 05-29-09

B. 3 Administrative Remedy Procedure, 05-26-09

B.7.1 8.1 Telephone Usage by Youth & Monitoring of Calls, 5-4-09

B.8.2 Personal Grooming and/or Group Identification of Youth, 5-21-09

B.8.3 Volunteer Services Program, 5-29-09

B.8.10 Access to Computers and Certain Office Equipment by Youth, 5-21-09

B.8.11 Pre-Release Program, 5-28-09

B.8.12 Youth Orientation, 5-28-09

B.8.17 Polygraph Testing of Youth, 10-22-08

B.9.1 Youth Welfare Fund, 5-27-09

B.9.2 Youth Canteens, 5-26-09

B.9.3 Youth Banking, 5-28-09

#### **FIELD OPERATIONS**

C.1.1 Death of Youth, Autopsies & Burial Expenses, 6-26-09

C.1.4 Attorney Visits, 4-27-09

C.1.5 Research, 5-29-09

C.1.7 Crime Victims Notification, 5-21-09

C.1.9 EPA Worker Protection Standard, 3-04-09

C.1.13 Media Access and Public Information, 1-23-09

**C.1.14 Archived (Utilization of Horses in Correctional Institutions), 10-22-08**

**C.1.15 Archived (Children's Initiatives Program) 10-22-08**

**C.1.16 Archived (Canine Units), 1-28-09**

C.1.17 Monitoring of Smart Zone System (700 MHz Radios), 1-23-09

C.2.2 Facility Riot, Hunger Strike, Employee Work Stoppage, Significant Disturbance and Hostage Situation, 5-29-09

C.2.3 Searches of Youth, 5-29-09

C.2.4 Searches of Employees, 5-29-09

C.2.5 Searches of Visitors, 5-29-09

C.2.6 Use of Interventions – Secure Care, 5-26-09

C.2.7 Youth Drug/Alcohol Testing, 5-14-09

C.2.9 Correspondence & Packages, 5-20-09

C.2.10 Safety & Emergency Management, 5-21-09

C.2.11 Prison Rape Elimination ACT (PREA), 7-13-09

C.4.1 Furlough Process & Escorted Absence, 1-20-09

C.5.3 Quality Assurance Reviews– Central Office Audits, Secure Facilities & Regional Offices, 5-28-09

C.6.1 Food Services, 4-20-09

C.8.1 Community-Based Services Policy and Procedure Manual, 8-14-08

**C.9.1 Archived (Equine Health Management), 1-28-09**

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**We've been published! The August issue of *Corrections Today*, the official publication of the American Correctional Association, features an article by Deputy Secretary Dr. Mary Livers. Under Juvenile Justice News, the topic is service coordination: Communication and Coordination Make the Difference.**

### *OJJ Partner Shares Kids' Experience*

## **AMikids Students Dive into New Possibilities**

**By Sherri Ulleg, AMikids Communications Director**

AMikids recently hosted its annual President's Dive Trip in Homestead, Florida for 18 teams of students from programs across the country, including Louisiana AMI youth from the Marine Institutes in Baton Rouge, Donaldsonville and Shreveport. Seventy young men and women aged 14-18 participated in the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual President's Invitational Diving Event.

AMikids programs use hands-on experiential learning activities such as SCUBA, skin diving, water safety and navigation to teach kids teamwork, basic education and employable skills. AMI's young divers worked very hard to earn an invitation to the Dive Trip. Some of these young men and women may seek jobs later in life in the marine industry; while all of the students will benefit from the courage and dedication they exhibited to complete the rigorous certification requirements.

AMikids' dive instructors made great strides in the training of the kids (and staff), some of whom were learning to swim for the first time! Fifty-one youth obtained open water certifications and seven obtained advanced open water certifications.

The record number of programs in attendance was due in large part to the generosity of the Hartwell Foundation and Louisiana 19<sup>th</sup> JDC Judge Curtis Calloway. These two donors contributed funds specifically for experiential education programs. The funds allowed programs to attend the dive trip that otherwise would be unable to do so due to financial constraints.

Below are photos from the AMikids dive trip.



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**Good, better, best  
Never let it rest  
Until the good becomes better  
And the better becomes best**

Author Unknown

Contributed by **Nancy Gautreau**,  
LCSW-BACS, ACSW,  
CO Program Manager, Community Based  
Services

## **Probation and Parole Week**

### **OJJ Regional Offices honor PPOs and celebrate in a big way**

OJJ joined with the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) in observing Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week, July 19-25. OJJ Regional Offices celebrated with lots of activities, fun and food to honor our PPOs for their dedication and effort in meeting the mission on a daily basis.

“This commemorative week is a time to recognize, honor and celebrate the work performed by both juvenile and adult Probation and Parole Officers to keep our communities safe and help offenders learn to make healthy decisions and lead productive lives,” said Deputy Secretary Mary L. Livers.

Our eleven offices house 235 PPOs, with a total of 278 positions in the area of probation and parole. Together they supervise 3,639 youth.

Here’s a wrap-up of regional office activities. For details, check each Regional Office’s section.

**Alexandria OJJ** planned a breakfast, a luncheon, and an ice cream party, with meals prepared by supervisory staff.

**Baton Rouge OJJ** offered special thanks to **RM Sue Larisey** for her creativity and hard work for P&P Week. **Deputy Assistant Secretary Carolyn Lewis** paid a visit. The week started with a continental breakfast OJJ style, continued with chocolate dipped pretzels, followed by an ice cream social. The week ended with a catered luncheon, personal certificates and special notes.

**Hammond OJJ** celebrated each day, providing treats and Certificates of Appreciation, door prizes and positive comment sheets, lunch prepared by the supervisors, an ice cream social and personalized cups filled with candy.

**Lafayette OJJ** had a luncheon provided by **RM Sharon Guillory** and the supervisors. In addition, the Volunteers of America staff had several events, including serving pizza for the PPOs, a dunking booth to dunk youth on probation, and a mock trial and skits.

**Lake Charles OJJ’s** probation officers were treated to a luncheon at a restaurant in appreciation for their service.

**Monroe OJJ’s RM Patty Newman** and the supervisors and support staff recognized their probation officers throughout the week with breakfast, an ice cream party, a pizza lunch, desk accessories, muffins and doughnuts – token of appreciation for a job well done.

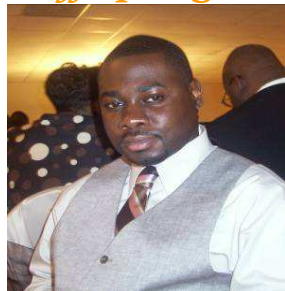
**Natchitoches OJJ** held a breakfast, an ice cream luncheon, and gave PPOs certificates of appreciation during the week.

**Orleans/Jefferson OJJ** celebrated with a surprise breakfast buffet. The supervisors prepared an excellent meal and the Clerical Unit provided goodies for each PPO. The week concluded with cake and ice cream and each PPO was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by their supervisor.

**Shreveport OJJ** celebrated a week early since **RM Kristi Martin** was off the actual P&P Week. The supervisors did a great job in showing appreciation for the PPOs by planned something for each day to make the week special. Your Fearless Editor laughed out loud over the “speed uncuffing race.”

**Tallulah OJJ** also celebrated each day, with doughnuts, gifts bags, breakfast one day and lunch the next, then ice cream and cake. The week was topped off with Certificates of Appreciation.

**Thibodaux OJJ** jumped the gun a little – **RM Kelly Clement** and the supervisors held a barbecue in June, but during the actual P&P Appreciation Week, PPOs enjoyed ice cream, doughnuts and a Jeans Day.

*Staff Spotlight on...*

**PPO 1 Christopher  
Wyatt, Natchitoches Regional Office**

Christopher Jermaine Wyatt began his career with Natchitoches OJJ as an intern from Northwestern State University. As an intern, Chris observed the PPOs and wanted to do the same work, making a difference in the lives of the youth we serve. After graduation in 2006, with a bachelor's degree in social work, he was hired first as a transport officer, then as a PPO. He completed the Caddo Parish POST Training Academy in July 2008 and has been with OJJ for about two years.

Chris brought high hopes to his work. When he sees youth receive GEDs or high school diplomas, find steady work and become productive, law abiding citizens, he feels that he is succeeding in meeting his goals.

"The 10<sup>th</sup> JDC Drug Court program has made a positive change in the lives of youth, in association with my coworkers, the probation officers," Chris said. "It's a joy to see kids with chronic problems graduate from the program; it's a reward for kids who are doing well. Drugs are a pretty big problem for youth in this area. Their neighborhood environment often perpetuates the cycle."

Three youth recently graduated from the Drug Court program, Chris said, though many people thought they could not complete it. "They exceeded everyone's expectations. It really changed their lives," he said. "Being on probation gave them the structure they needed. Through the court program youth receive individual, family and group counseling, in addition to the needed substance abuse counseling."

"We hate to have to place kids on probation or in custody to provide the structure and discipline they need, but sometimes that's what we have to do," he said.

The PPOs go to clients' homes and serve as role models for youth, Chris said. "We work well as a unit. It's a team effort. I have to give a lot of praise to my co-workers. There's no way I could do without their help."

Chris and his wife, Charity Means Wyatt, were married in July 2008. He likes to spend time with his wife, and they often visit his mother in his hometown of Mansfield.

Chris also spends his spare time performing many church-related activities. "I like to go to church and I believe in the values of the church. I like to do things to help the church," he said.

Serving young people appears to be Chris' role in his personal life as well as in his professional life. He also mentors a drill team at the Christian Outreach Center in Natchitoches, for youth aged 7 – 18, teaching steps and drills. Chris says he takes joy in seeing these youth achieve personal goals in the community, home and in the church, while under his mentorship.

Chris is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha, a national service fraternity. It is no surprise that the group mentors kids and participates in kids' activities.

"I get up in the morning to glorify God and do what God has purposed me to do," Chris said. "God has me where he wants me to be, and I do what He wants me to accomplish."

"I enjoy helping young people," Chris said. "I am from a single parent home. My mother was strong, and always backed me. But when I was young, I sometimes wished that I had other people to help guide me. As an intern, I watched the PPOs guide kids. I made up my mind to live a good life. You have to plan ahead. I try to be the best person that I can be."



**Transitions****Comings and Goings.....**

**Welcome to new members of the OJJ Family:**

**BATON ROUGE**

Yolanda Brown, Probation & Parole Off. 1  
Steven Dukes, Probation and Parole Off. 1  
Deshona Mobley, Probation & Parole Off. 1

**BRIDGE CITY**

Craig Addison, Youth Care Worker 1  
Tony Bell, Youth Care Worker 1  
Niquia Bradley, Corrections Sergeant  
Deindra Breaux, Corrections Cadet  
Carion Gaines, Corrections Sergeant  
Rita Green, Security Officer  
Marvin Keelen, Corrections Sergeant  
Beverly Lewis, Social Service Counselor 1  
Ricky May, Security Officer  
Sam McKay, Social Worker 3  
Timothy Myers, Corrections Cadet  
Jeanette Pierre, Security Officer  
Michelle Smith, Social Worker 1  
Tammy Vappie, Corrections Cadet  
Shineder Watson, Security Officer

**CENTRAL OFFICE**

Chris Allen, IT Contract Employee  
Shawn Sellars, IT Support Specialist 3

**JETSON**

Karlita Anderson, HR Analyst A  
Javona Jones, Social Services Counselor 2  
Courtney Robottom, Soc. Services Coun. 1  
Charles Stevens, Plumber/Pipe Fitter  
Bart Volentine, IT Tech Support Analyst 1

**SWANSON**

Sarah Clark, Corrections Cadet  
Commocorbreo Barnett, Corrections Sgt.  
Shimika Bresheak, Corrections Sergeant  
Julia Jackson, Corrections Sergeant  
Dale Jones, Corrections Sergeant  
Kelvin McCall, Corrections Sergeant  
Russell McCall, Corrections Sergeant  
Emma Walker, Corrections Sergeant

John Brown, Electrician Foreman  
Violet Lee, Social Service Counselor 1  
Cleveland Johnson, Youth Care Worker 1  
Detrick Massey, Youth Care Worker 1  
Willie Hill, Youth Care Worker 3

**HAMMOND**

Jenna Hill, Probation & Parole Officer 1

**NATCHITOCHES**

Brenda Sarpy, Probation & Parole Officer 1

**PROMOTIONS****CENTRAL OFFICE**

Tony Square, Human Resource Specialist

**JETSON**

Micon Gaines, Social Services Counselor 2  
Dexter James, Social Service Counselor 2

**NEW ORLEANS/JEFFERSON**

Yezette Black, Probation & Parole Supvr.

**SHREVEPORT**

Janice Crain, Probation & Parole Program Specialist

**REALLOCATIONS****ALEXANDRIA**

Lori Johnson, Probation & Parole Officer 2

**HAMMOND**

Mark Benton, Probation & Parole Officer 3  
Penny Buniff, Probation & Parole Officer 3  
Christy Ford, Probation & Parole Officer 3  
Amy Johnson, Probation & Parole Officer 3  
Kasey Wall, Probation & Parole Officer 3

**THIBODAUX**

Keith Kotoski, Probation & Parole Officer 3  
Rachel Loupe, Probation & Parole Officer 3

**RETIREMENT****JETSON**

Terry Thibodeaux, Instructor, 26 years of service

**TALLULAH**

Frances Kennedy, 38 years of service

## Alexandria Regional Office

### Congratulations

**PPO1 Heath Wallace-Officer of the Quarter Administrative Coordinator 4 Sharon Graham-Support Staff of the Quarter.**

We are very sad to report that **PPO2 Rodney McNeal's wife, Stephanie McNeal**, passed away due to cancer. Please keep Rodney and his family in your prayers. Services were held August 5 at True Vine Missionary Baptist Church.

Some of the staff have been gathering in the afternoons to play basketball. This is good for stress relief, exercise, and relationship builder. It is also preparing **PPO1 Robert Harris** for the upcoming Police Academy. Robert has had his Academy pre-test and is working very hard getting ready to begin this month. **PPO2 Rodney McNeal** is helping Robert by running with him at least three mornings a week before they come to work. We wish Robert well in the Academy.

**PPS Clay Dupuy** cooked hamburgers for staff to celebrate the July 4th holiday.

**PPO1 Heath Wallace** successfully completed the PPCT Instructor course at the State Police Training Academy in Baton Rouge. Congratulations Heath!

Get well wishes to **Administrative Coordinator 3 Cassaundra Conston**, after her surgery. We look forward to having her back to work.

**PPO2 Jency Moore** and **PPO2 Lori Johnson** completed the Medicaid Applications training in Shreveport in July.

Our annual audit was held in July. Thanks to those who performed the audit.

For **Probation and Parole Week**, PPOs enjoyed a breakfast, a luncheon and an ice cream party, with meals prepared by supervisory staff.

## Baton Rouge Regional Office

Baton Rouge OJJ has officially transformed to service coordination. (Hurray!)

### Welcome to our new employees:

**PPO Yolanda Brown**  
**PPO Steven Dukes**  
**PPO Deshona Mobley**

### Congratulations

**PPO1 Stephanie Krygowski - Employee of the Month**

**PPO Leslie Jones** received her commission card.

**PPO Brandon Woods** and **PPO Katina Broden** began the POST Academy.

Kudos to **PPO1 Darla Hood** who donated lots of toddler clothes for one of our young parents!

**PPO Stephanie Krygowski** made a JDAI site visit to Santa Cruz, California. While in Santa Cruz, Stephanie visited the Santa Cruz Juvenile Detention Center and attended a seminar that addressed services provided to juveniles placed in detention centers.



*PPO Stephanie Krygowski in Santa Cruz.*

## Probation and Parole Week

*Special Thanks* to **RM Sue Larisey** for her creativity and hard work for Probation and Parole Week. On Monday we were extended an invitation to our first continental breakfast OJJ style. The breakfast included biscuits, sausage biscuits, a variety of doughnuts, fruit

and orange juice. Next, we received chocolate dipped pretzels along with a special invitation to an ice cream social scheduled for the following day. The ice cream social was great! There was a variety of flavors and toppings. Kudos to **Deputy Assistant Secretary Carolyn Lewis**, for joining us for our special treat! Last but certainly not least, we ended the week with a catered luncheon (banquet style) in which we each received a personal certificate for good service and a special note of encouraging words from our fellow employees, reminding us of how we affect the lives of the people we serve and work with. **KUDOS! RM Larisey for a special week, well done!**



*PPO Micah James, PPO Keondra Riley, PPO Elois Nelson and PPO Naomi Rodney enjoy the continental breakfast for Probation and Parole Week.*

## Bridge City Center for Youth

### Congratulations

Second Quarter Employee Award Winners:  
**Robert Rodriguez - Support Employee**  
**Gregory Williams - Education Employee**  
**Linette Washington - Youth Care Officer**  
**Robert Scott - Supervisory Employee**  
**Janet Benn - Administrative Employee**  
**Krishna Bailey - Treatment Employee**

### LA Mod Class #13

BCCY's Staff Development department welcomed its 13<sup>th</sup> and largest training class in July. The class of 29 consisted of: **BCCY**, 18 youth care staff, five social services staff, one administrative clerk and **Dr. Yolanda Crump, JUMP Program**; **JCY**: **Linda Trotter, Training and Development Program Manager**, two social services counselors and **Mary Ann Levy, an intern** from the **Tulane School of Social Work**. They will graduate this month. The class is very excited about their new opportunities, matched by our excitement to have so many wonderful new employees. Below, we captured pictures of our class during various training courses.



*Safe Crisis Management training.*



*The Challenge Course*



*LA Mod "Beliefs & Philosophies"*



### **BCCY Holds Dance and Step Talent Show**

Youth were entertained by their peers with a variety of performances that included dancing and singing as well as a step show by the **BCCY Step Team** under the direction of **Math Instructor Gregory Williams** and **LSUHSC Counselor Arcell Boddien**.

**Deputy Director Michael Gaines** opened the show with expectations. Next were performances by the **youth of Ujamaa and Kuumba dorms**. They performed a theatrical performance of "Move" by Jimmy Hicks. Ujima Dormitory performed a song written by some of the youth in the dorm.

**Youth from Zawadi and Imani dorms** danced to a mix of music from techno to bounce, including a homage to the late Michael Jackson. **Youth Gerald M.** moonwalked across the floor to "Smooth Criminal." We will encourage and look forward to all dorms participating in the next talent show.

**Director Linda London**, the **Executive Team**, and staff from all departments were in attendance to support the youth. Youth enjoyed the show and event was a great success.

### **BCCY Holds Independence Day Celebration**

The BCCY family celebrated Independence Day with a Fourth of July feast. The purpose of the feast was not only to celebrate Independence Day but to show appreciation to all employees for the commitment, support, and hard work they exhibit daily. Everyone enjoyed themselves and the event was a huge success. Staff got a chance to sit back, relax, and appreciate their meal and to meet other employees.

*Administrative Coordinator 2 Monique Jones, left, and LaMOD Coordinator Darvonya Smith enjoy the Independence Day celebration.*

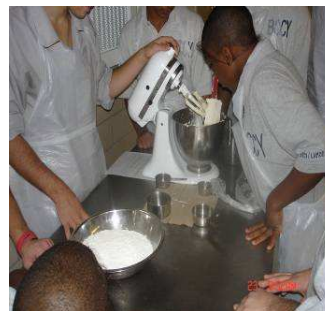


### **Fun Fridays to Become Regular Events at BCCY**

**Director Linda London**, along with other supervisors, decided to host a morale building event called Fun Fridays. This event will be held twice a month during lunchtime as a way for supervisors to show appreciation to their staff. Fun Fridays will also allow everyone to come together to participate in fun activities and encourage and motivate everyone to become One Team, One Dream.

### **Cookie Monster**

BCCY students have been participating in a Culinary Arts class during the teachers' break. **Chef Ron Sonnier** has been teaching two dorms per day how to weigh ingredients and prepare and bake chocolate chip cookies. Throughout the experience the students had a great time, especially eating the results of their efforts.



*Cookieeeeeez!*



### Religious Activities at BCCY

Revival Week was held on campus in July with a lot of wonderful activities.

There was a singing competition, a dorm, dance and poetry competition and performance by the drill team. The youth concluded the week with the Best Dorm Competition. The youth had many exciting activities to prepare for and participate in during their summer break, including a gospel fest and dorm competition.

Volunteers from **First Baptist Church of Colleyville, Texas** presented religious and recreational activities, including a concert. **No Cross, No Crown Ministries** came out to participate in Christian events. The volunteers provided hot dogs, grilled cheese sandwiches, nachos and ice tea for the youth to enjoy. BCCY dining hall staff topped off the meal with homemade layered banana pudding and graham crackers.

The schedule included singing by **Cornerstone Church** of Harvey, and **Billy and Rose Mary**. There was an outstanding performance by a young Christian rapper/poet, who did a wonderful job, using his words to express the real life situations that some people may face. He held the attention of the youth with his bold voice. The poet related everything to life as Christians. He drew an analogy of peeling a seed, and seeing that it is smooth once the shell has come off. He wanted the youth to realize that God isn't through with them; you may be rough and ragged now, but wait to see how nice the finished product will be. Pastor Garrison concluded the event with a prayer and a motivational speech.

The youths' behavior was outstanding. After the entertainment the ministers took time out to speak individually with them.

**Recreation Therapist Darlene Anderson** stated that youth were receptive to the ministers as they performed and spoke. "The

week would not have been a success without the Spirit-filled closing. The youth enjoyed every moment," she said.



*Religious volunteers spend time with youth.*



*A presentation during Revival Week.*

### Central Office

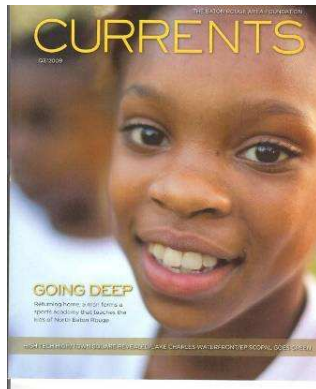
Congratulations to **Human Resources Administrative Assistant Tina Jolie**, on the birth of her baby girl Taylin.

Heartfelt condolences to Attorney **Kathe Zolman**, who recently lost her grandmother.

**HR Analyst Tony Square** was promoted to Human Resource Specialist.

Information Technology welcomes two new employees: **Chris Allen, Contract Employee**, and **Shawn Sellars, IT Support Specialist 3**.

**Administrative Coordinator Glenda Daigre's granddaughter, Kenzie LeBeouf**, was featured on the cover and in the cover story of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation's magazine *Currents*, as the only girl on the Scotlandville BREC baseball team.



***Kenzie LeBoufon**  
the cover of Currents magazine.*

**Administrative Coordinator 3 Gail Miller's** son **Wade Miller** transported the crew of the TV show CSI from Las Vegas, Nevada to Fresno, California for filming of the show. Wade is a motorcoach driver in Las Vegas.

## Hammond Regional Office

### Congratulations

**PPO Penny Buniff** was the **Hammond OJJ Superstar** of the month. She was nominated by **PPO Leigh Calmes** for attending a 72 hour hearing and completing the court narrative.

**PPO1 Kristin Rainey** and **PPO1/J Renee Barrois** graduated from the Slidell POST Academy in July.

**Hammond OJJ** celebrated Probation and Parole Officers Week with activities each day. We showed our appreciation for our officers on Monday with a certificate of appreciation and Little Debbie treats. On Tuesday, we held an ice cream social. On Wednesday, the PPOs were given personalized cups of candy. Thursday, they received oreo balls. On Friday, staff was treated to popsicles. We certainly do appreciate and value all of the hard work our PPOs do in the Hammond Region!

## Jetson Center for Youth

Condolences to **LSUHSC Social Worker/ Jetson Choir Leader Ben Groover** on the recent loss of his brother.

### JCY Holds Graduation Ceremony

Jetson's graduation was held in July after being postponed due to the medical precaution for the H1N1 virus. Although 11 youth were honored, three were present for the ceremony.

**Valedictorian De'Shaun M.** gave a heartfelt speech and thanked the JCY staff for helping the graduates to achieve their goals.

The graduation ceremony included a full program, with **Youth Brandon W.** serving as master of ceremonies and the posting of the colors presented by the **Jackson-Morris-Moore American Legion Post 416** from Zachary. Keynote speaker was the **Hon. Judge John Michael Guidry of the First Circuit Court of Appeals**. Special guests were **April Hawthorne, Legislative Assistant to Rep. Sharon Weston-Broome** and **Mr. Joe Jenkins, representing Rep. Avon Honey**.

**Para-educator Bishop Samuel Butler** provided the invocation and benediction, while **Director Daron Brown** addressed the youth and provided an encouraging message. **Principal Ronnie Knox** presented diplomas. Special awards were presented by JCY Instructors **G. Hargrove**, math; **A. Sampson**, science; **J. Huggins**, social studies and language arts and reading.

A number of families of youth were present for the event. Graduating youth presented their mothers with bouquets of roses, in a very touching Jetson tradition. After the ceremony, a reception was held in which the cafeteria staff presented a beautiful array of refreshments.

Many thanks to the **Education Staff** who worked very hard to make the graduation

ceremony a special event for the youth and their families, including **Principal Ronnie Knox, A. Barnardez, C. Booker, S. Butler, H. Ellis, W. Gerald, G. Hargrove, J. Huggins, S. Kissick, P. Moore, D. Nedie, N. Nichols, L. Poor, C. Rash, D. Sheppard, C. Stewart, T. Thibodeaux and K. Washington.**

Special thanks to the **Recreation, Cafeteria and Security staffs** for their help in making the ceremony a great success for all who attended.



*Seated are Valedictorian De'Shaun M., Shannon S. and Dayland B. Standing are JCY Parae-ducator Bishop Samuel Butler; April Hawthorne, Legislative Assistant to Representative Sharon Weston-Broome; Director Daron Brown; Mr. Joe Jenkins, representing Rep. Avon Honey; keynote speaker Hon. Judge John Guidry of the First Circuit Court of Appeals; OJJ Education Director Kim Mims; Deputy Assistant Secretary for Facilities, Philippe Magloire and Scenic Alternative High School Principal Ronnie Knox.*

### JCY Participates in Church Back-to-School Event

**Director Daron Brown** was a featured speaker at a Back-to-School Lock-In held by the Mt. Calvary and Richland Baptist Churches in East Feliciana Parish. A number of Jetson youth attended the all-night program, where they encouraged church youth to make the right choices and described the consequences of making the wrong

choices. The youth participated in activities including skits and competitions. The purpose of the event was to get children and parents motivated and prepared for the new school year. "This was a great chance for us to partnership with the community," Director Brown said.



*A JCY youth addresses the back-to-school lock-in.*

### JCY Basketball Team Participates in AAU Tournament

Congratulations to the Jetson Tigers basketball team. The Jetson team competed in local Amateur Athletics Union (AAU) summer basketball tournament held at Jackson High School in Jackson. Jetson competed for two days, meeting talent from Baton Rouge and surrounding areas. The Jetson team did an outstanding job on and off the court playing as an organized unit. **Coach Carroll** stated "the young men played hard in each and every game." **Recreation Therapist Coach Alonzo Jones** stated "you can't ask for anything more from our kids than to play hard and have fun. Some of the teams that played in this tournament will win national championships this summer. We are headed in the right direction as we partnership with the community."

### Congratulations

**Recreation Therapist Alonzo Jones** coaches an AAU basketball team that went all the way to a championship tournament in Hawaii.



### JCY Enjoys “Taste of Louisiana” Taste Fair

Youth and staff at Scenic Alternative High School were treated to a “Taste of Louisiana” in July. The Taste Fair was part of the culminating activity for a unit on Louisiana history and culture in the social studies class of teachers **Janice Huggins** and **Carolyn Rash**. Science teacher **Dwayne Nedie** and PE Coach **Ken Washington** barbecued chicken and sausage, both slathered with the sweetest, most delicious local sauces imaginable. The Taste Fair also included large portions (and seconds, and thirds) of potato salad, jambalaya, fried fish, corn and potatoes, and exotic Louisiana delicacies such as pig’s feet. The activity also included poster and essay contests and Louisiana-boosting, letter-writing campaigns, many of which decorated the entire school building area.



*Above left and right, Louisiana-boosting posters decorated the school for the Taste of Louisiana Taste Fair. Below, plates of Louisiana cooking at the taste fair.*



Thanks to the **St. Patrick Catholic Church Knights of Columbus Council #8601** for coming out to present their annual barbecue for Jetson youth and staff. The group is led every year by **Mr. Paul Geissler**. The volunteers provided a delicious spread with hamburgers, sausage, potato salad, baked beans, dessert, and all the trimmings. This year’s event received good publicity with a full page story and photos in *The Catholic Commentator*, the bi-weekly newspaper of the Baton Rouge Diocese, and a photo in the Baton Rouge daily newspaper, *The Advocate*.

### Choir performs at Church conference

The JCY Rising Stars Choir, under the director of **Mst. Sgt. Frances Bailey**, performed at the annual Assembly of God Church conference at its campground in Palmetto (between Krotz Springs and Alexandria). The youths’ performance was appreciated by the conference attendees.

### Lafayette/Opelousas Regional Office

#### Congratulations

Lafayette Drug Court **PPO Joey Graciana** was chosen as the Lafayette/Opelousas Region Employee of the Month.

Vermilion and Acadia Parish **PPS Ken Stewart** was chosen Supervisor of the Quarter for the Second Quarter of 2009.

Evangeline Parish **PPO Jason Trahan** celebrated his five-year anniversary with OJJ in July.

**PPO3/J Delisa Clark** and her husband, **Dr. Greg Clark**, celebrated their wedding anniversary in July.

#### Best Wishes and Prayers

Lafayette/Opelousas OJJ sends best wishes and prayers to Lafayette Parish **PPO Mina**



**Travis**, who is battling cancer. We know Mina is one tough cookie, and will beat this.

### Welcome to New Employees:

Opelousas OJJ welcomes  
**PPO1 Scott Peyton**

Lafayette OJJ welcomed  
**PPO1 Kalen Smith**  
**PPO1 George Hebert**  
**PPO2 Opal West**, no stranger to life with OJJ, as she transferred to Lafayette OJJ from Hammond OJJ.

### Probation and Parole Week

Students at the VOA Day Programs in Lafayette and Opelousas went above and beyond to say "thank you" to the probation officers who work so hard for them during Probation and Parole Week.

The Opelousas VOA Day Program hosted a luncheon for the Opelousas probation officers. The staff and students at the program brought lunch to the office for the officers. The students made posters and banners thanking the probation officers for their efforts. The students with the best discipline records in the program were invited to eat with the probation officers and staff.

**Counselor Stephanie Ledet** commented that the students introduced themselves to the Opelousas office staff, and were very polite and very pleasant to dine with.

The Lafayette VOA Day Program hosted its first annual Probation Officer Carnival. The students wrote and acted in skits, where they did imitations of their probation officers. Some students even put on a mock trial, portraying their PPOs at work. Some students presented original poetry they had written. There was a water slide and a dunking booth, where PPOs could dunk their students. Some PPOs were even brave enough to get in the booth and let themselves be dunked by their students. Pizza was served for lunch. It was

a beautiful day outside, and everyone enjoyed the program.

The students and staff at the VOA Day Programs weren't the only ones to show appreciation for the probation officers of the Lafayette/Opelousas OJJ.

On Tuesday, the Lafayette PPOs were treated to lunch by their supervisors, and Wednesday the Opelousas officers were treated to lunch by their supervisors who wanted to show their appreciation for all the officers' hard work in meeting the mission every day. **PPS Steve Neef** commented that, while the job the probation officers have is at times a difficult one, the Lafayette Region is lucky to have such a skilled and committed set of officers.

**St. Mary Parish PPO Cassandra Brown's daughter, J'Ashala Haynes**, graduated Cum Laude from West St. Mary High School in Baldwin, where she was awarded the Most Outstanding Player Award and the Wolfpack Award in Girls Basketball.

J'Ashala has been accepted at Dillard University in New Orleans, and received a number of scholarships: Dillard: full athletic (basketball) scholarship, valued at \$92,000; University Merit Scholarship, valued at \$30,000; Excellence and Heritage Award, valued at \$4000.00; Louisiana's TOPS Scholarship, valued at \$2770.00 per year, plus scholarships from two sororities, the Louisiana High School Athletic Association, and the Marie B. Wyman School Food Service Scholarship, totaling \$1600.00



*J'Ashala Haynes*

## Lake Charles Regional Office

**PPO Rebecca Harmon** recently supported the musical talents of one of our female clients during a transport. PPO Harmon gave the youth a clean rap CD to inspire and encourage the youth's strength in writing music and to demonstrate that the content of rap does not have to be offensive. The youth and PO Harmon "jammed" to the CD for the entire transport, and the youth was grateful for her gift.

**PPS Melissa Cross** attended the Firearms Instructor meeting in Alexandria in July, and participated in much-needed collaboration with other OJJ Firearms Instructors.

**PPO Angela Stevens and PPO Jeff Haley** were first responders to a traffic accident in July. A registered nurse also observed the accident, and was attempting to render first aid to the victim of the car accident without any tools. PPO Haley and PPO Stevens loaned the nurse the First Aid kit from their state vehicle they were driving so she could render aid effectively until ambulances arrived. Their concern was greatly appreciated by the accident victim!

**Regional Manager Ann Vick** and most of the **Lake Charles OJJ officers** attended a JSOTP (Juvenile Sex Offender Treatment Program) presentation at the Civic Center in July, where the JSOTP team educated regional judges, DAs, attorneys, law enforcement and OCS regarding our court protocol and treatment options for alleged or adjudicated juvenile sex offenders.

**PPS Ken Vidrine** presented during the OJJ segment of the JSOTP program.

## Probation and Parole Week

During Probation and Parole Week, our office had small daily celebrations in honor of our Probation Officers. Each supervisory unit and the respective supervisor enjoyed a restaurant lunch with entertaining fellowship, at no expense to the officers.

Other efforts to show appreciation throughout the week included appreciation signs posted all over the office; honey buns for breakfast; a hot dog lunch provided by the Administrative Coordinators; appreciation cards; Thin Blue Line decals; favorite candy bars; chocolate-covered strawberries; doughnuts and juice for breakfast; gift certificates; toy badges and cuffs, and presentation of Certificate of Awards for special talents.

It was a FUN week, and our officers expressed gratitude for all efforts made. Lake Charles OJJ PPOs are genuinely appreciated.

## Monroe Regional Office

### Congratulations

Monroe OJJ would like to congratulate our Employees of the Quarter on their well-deserved awards.

**PPO Don Hamler – Probation and Parole Officer of the Quarter**  
**Program Specialist Walteree Barnes - Support Employee of the Quarter**

**PPO Hannah Zeigler** married **Ron Dozier** on the beach in Florida on July 1. Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Dozier.

**PPO T.J. Malveaux** graduated from the POST Academy in June. We are glad to have him back.

**PPO T.J. Malveaux** is also an award winning barber. In July he won the Traditional Barber Battle at the Chew's Multicultural Hair Expo 2009 held in Lake Charles. Congratulations T.J.

**PPS Karl Wallace** recently bought a ticket for the St. Jude's Dream Home raffle. Although he did not win the house, he was awarded one of the alternate prizes: \$4000.00 worth of groceries from Brookshire's. Hey Karl, we like our steaks medium!

### Probation and Parole Week

In recognition of Probation and Parole Week, **Monroe Regional Manager Patty Newman** and her supervisors and support staff recognized our probation officers throughout the week with breakfast, an ice cream party, a pizza lunch, desk accessories, muffins and doughnuts as small tokens of our appreciation for a job well done.

### Natchitoches Regional Office

#### Congratulations



**Christopher Wyatt** has been selected as **Employee of the Month**.

### Virginia Levasseur Celebrates 35 Years of Service

On July 8, 1974 **Administrative Coordinator Virginia Levasseur** began her service with the Office of Youth Services as a Dictaphone Operator I. Over the years the positions have changed but she has not. **Ms. Ginger** is a wealth of knowledge to the office staff, especially to the non-secure placement process and programs. She is a valuable asset to the agency. We extend our heartfelt thanks for so many years of dedicated service.

### Probation and Parole Week

Probation and Parole Officers were treated by staff in honor of their contribution to OJJ with goodies: Monday: doughnuts and coffee; Wednesday: cake and ice cream; Friday: hamburgers with all the trimmings

### N-OJJ Holds Send-Off Party

We held a pizza party as a send-off for staff who are leaving us for a while.

**PPO1 Ieisha Beasley** left for military training. **PPOs Heather Christophe** and **Deanna Williams** will be attending Alexandria Police Academy for P.O.S.T. training August through October.



*Heather*



*Ieisha*



*Deanna*

### New Orleans/Jefferson Regional Office

**PPO3 Stanley Schofield** who is featured in every issue of *The Inside Scoop...of OJJ* for his humanitarian work as a youth motivational speaker, received a letter from the founder of YOUTHanasia Foundation-The Teen Center for Non-Violence. Kimberly Byas-Dilosa wrote "Each time I hear you speak and witness the effects of your address I am in awe! As a kid, you helped me get through issues stemming from my parents' divorce and I went on to become a community leader...I appreciate you and am proud to call you my mentor."

**PPO 2 Daphne Johnson's** daughter **Kennedy Johnson**, who is a Brownie, participated in the Cookie Hall of Fame Ceremony in St Francisville, which recognized Girl Scouts and Brownies who sold more than 400 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies. Kennedy sold 415 boxes of cookies, due in a large part to sales made here at New Orleans OJJ. Daphne and Kennedy would like to express appreciation for everyone's support, thanks y'all!

### Probation and Parole Week

Orleans OJJ celebrated **Probation Officer Appreciation Week** with a surprise breakfast buffet! The supervisors prepared an excellent meal for staff, and the Clerical Unit provided a fruit spread and delicious personalized cookies for each Probation Officer. On Friday, Officers enjoyed delicious cake and ice cream and were presented with Certificates of Appreciation by their Supervisors.



*Enjoying breakfast are, above, RM Angela T. Koenig, PPS Shawn Herbert, Program Specialist - Yezette White, PPS Nikita White and PPS Ralph Jones. Below are PPS Justine Aguiar, Admin. Supervisor Earnessa Moncriffe and PPO3 Vera Seals.*



*Breakfast is served! PPS Shawn Herbert), PPO2 Daphne Johnson, Transport Officer Willie Magee, PPO2*

*Austin Johnson, PPO2 Daria Melder, PPO2 Rosie Collins and PPO2 Evalina Lestrick.*

### Shreveport Regional Office

**PPO1 Alan Glover** was named Employee of the Month. Alan is a new officer who has really taken his job to heart. He shows up every day ready to work and excited to learn new things. He is a very valuable asset to the Shreveport OJJ Team! Congratulations, Alan!

We have been extremely busy on the training front here at Shreveport OJJ.

The month started with **PPO2 Daniel Barnard** and **PPO2 Todd Carlisle** attending the PPCT Instructor School in Baton Rouge. They will now take over as our Instructors.

**PPO2 Kristen McKee**, **Transport Officer Jessica Flores** and **Student Worker Atejia Glover** attended training to become Medicaid Application Representatives so we can now assist the children we supervise in applying for Medicaid if they are not already covered.

The Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office held a Flying Armed Course to certify officers to carry their weapons on airplanes. Several PPOs attended and were certified, including **PPO3 John Whitlock**, **PPO3 Steve Martino**, **PPO3 Charles Herrmann**, **PPO3 Tish Juneau**, **PPO2 Daniel Barnard** and **PPO1 Charles Davis**.

Shreveport OJJ held a Provider's Meeting in July. Goodwill served as the host location. **PS Jan Crain** and **Regional Manager Kristi Martin** provided valuable information to contract providers. The providers also had a chance to network with each other.

### Probation and Parole Week

And now for the fun stuff! Since **Regional Manager Kristi Martin** was off during the actual Probation & Parole Officer Week, we celebrated it the week before. The supervisors really did a great job in showing their appreciation for the officers. They planned



something for each day and really made the week special!

On Monday the supervisors cooked and served a wonderful breakfast to the officers. It was complete with sausage balls, bacon, fruit, hash brown casserole, doughnuts, turnovers, (you hungry yet?) biscuits, grits, breakfast burritos, and orange juice to wash it all down! It is so true that the quickest way to an PPO's heart is through their belly!



*The breakfast spread!*

Tuesday we had a cookout and a plethora of fun team-building activities! **PPO3 Charles Herrmann** and **PPO1 Bennie Walters** arrived in style to kick off the festivities on their motorcycles. Grilled hamburgers and hot dogs were followed by some yummy homemade ice cream, whipped up by **PS Jan Crain** and **PPS Guy May**. Afterwards we divided up into our units to start the activities.

We started with a speed uncuffing race, moved on to volleyball, then to horseshoes. After that we did a three legged race with leg irons, and then a "friendly" game of tug-of-war. **PPS Rick Ladner's** unit including **PPO3 Steven Martino**, **PPO2 Robert Newman**, **PPO2 Jennifer Hill**, **PPO2 Todd Carlisle**, **PPO1 Brandy Stratton**, and **PPO1 Fabrecia Roberson**, won first place and was awarded a trophy!

All of the PPOs received key chains saying "You Make a Difference." We ended the afternoon with some friendly water gun fire and water balloons, and some brave souls cooled off from the hot day on the Slip-n-Slide! It was quite hilarious to see **RM Kristi Martin** dive headfirst, just for the officers'

enjoyment! She was joined by **PPS Guy May**, **PPS Rick Ladner**, **PPO Charles Herrmann**, and **PPO Tish Juneau**. Thanks to them all for some great entertainment!



*Scenes from the Shreveport OJJ's festivities.*



On Wednesday the PPOs were presented with gift bags packed with candy, bubbles, and Goodwill donated notepads. **RM Kristi Martin** also made bumper stickers for the PPOs that say "*Proud to be a Probation Officer.*"

On Thursday the PPOs were given thank you cards from all of the supervisors that expressed what they mean to the office and to OJJ as a whole. On Friday Red River

Marine Institute gifted the officers with an RRMI t-shirt and cup to show their appreciation.

Here is what a few of the officers had to say about P&P Week:

**PPO3 Dwain Wilemon** said, "P&P Week was great. I think the regional manager and the supervisors did a super job. I did feel appreciated. I have been a PO since 1994, and there has never been a week of appreciation like the week we had. Thanks to everyone who made it happen."

**PPO1 Lanita Lars** said, "P&P Week was wonderful. It felt great to be recognized for our daily efforts to help the youth."

**PPO3 Natalie Pope** said, "I'm glad that our agency is recognizing P&P Week. The supervisors put a lot of effort into recognizing our hard work and we really felt appreciated."

## Swanson Center for Youth

### SCY Honors Youth and Staff for Contributions to the Community

SCY and several Monroe area non-profit groups acknowledged youth and staff who have made a difference to their organizations. The ceremony honored the Swanson youth and staff who work with community organizations, including Habitat for Humanity, the Northeast Louisiana War Veterans Home, Relay for Life and the Food Bank of Northeast Louisiana.

**State Senator Francis Thompson** and **State Representative Rosalind Jones** attended the event, along with **Dr. Mary Livers** and other central office staff.

Dr. Livers welcomed everyone, saying "youth learn to give back to their community through their experience in working with non-profit organizations. Such restorative justice projects are an important part of rehabilitation for adjudicated youth."

Representatives from each group described their organizations and presented awards to participating staff and/or youth.

"The partnerships between the youth and staff at Swanson Center for Youth and local organizations are truly representative of the community," said **State Representative Rosalind Jones** of Monroe. "It is always exciting and encouraging to see good things happen in the community."

"The youth at Swanson are building relationships and learning skills that will help them to live successful and productive lives when they are released," said **State Senator Francis Thompson**, of Delhi. "Dr. Livers and her staff are helping these youth to become productive citizens."

**Habitat for Humanity Director Larry Head** said that Swanson has given the organization over 1,000 hours this year, and over several years has helped to build eight homes for area families. "Habitat for Humanity could not have completed the residents' homes without the Swanson volunteers and their woodworking instructor Mr. Robert Moffett," Mr. Head said.



*Woodworking Instructor Robert Moffett receives a certificate of award from Habitat for Humanity. Left to right are Larry Head, Charlie Cascio, Bobby Moffett and Fred Caldwell.*

**Richard King**, with the **Food Bank of Northeast Louisiana**, said his organization could not accomplish as much as they have

without the assistance of the SCY youth volunteers.

**Tommy Shoemaker** of the **Northeast Louisiana War Veterans Home** presented awards to the youth and said they help build morale for the residents by visiting with the veterans. "Swanson youth perform many services at the War Veterans Home and have learned to give back to the community, so they will become productive citizens when they are released," he said.

Deputy Secretary Livers said, "youth and staff at Swanson have been working hard to build relationships that will facilitate successful re-entry into the community."

### **SCY Instructor Bobby Moffett Helps to Develop National Textbook**

**Woodworking Instructor Bobby Moffett** helped develop the new Core Curriculum textbook for NCCER (National Center for Construction Education and Research). "It is not often that a school has a faculty member participate in putting together a nationally distributed textbook, so this is great for Mr. Moffett, Southside High School, Swanson Center for Youth, and the Office of Juvenile Justice," said **Principal William Lee**. "This, coupled with Mr. Moffett's work with his students in building houses for Habitat for Humanity, shows that we have quality people who are firmly committed to helping our students become productive citizens."

Congratulations to Mr. Moffett on this stellar achievement.

### **Congratulations**

Congratulations to **Josh and Angel Conville** on the birth of their first baby, Jackson Thomas Conville. He was born July 15<sup>th</sup>, weighing 7.8 lbs and was 20 inches long. Josh works in the Maintenance Dept at Swanson as a Maintenance Repair II.

### **SCY Holds VBS**

SCY had the annual Vacation Bible School in July. The theme of this year's VBS was "God's Big Back Yard" with the focus being service to community, family, friends and God. **Chaplain Rev. Ricky James**, who organizes Bible School, reported that the began with 42 youth attending and ended with 71 youth attending. Seven volunteers led the classes of 10-12 youth per class. The youth learned songs by the volunteer music teacher **Ms. LaShonda James**, with one of the songs being done in sign language. Rev. James also reported that the youth were very respectful and receptive to the program and one class was actually taught by **Youth Donald M.**

### **Youth Attend Revival**

Five Swanson youth got a treat in July when they were accompanied by **Chaplain Rev. Ricky James** and **Deputy Director Vernon Foy** to a church revival at Rocky Valley Baptist Church in Simsboro. **Rev. Joshua Matthew Daniels** of Houston, Texas, was the speaker at the service. Rev. Daniels travels the country to spread the word of God. One can imagine the amazement **Youths Charles J., Zachary D., Drafus B., Christopher M.** and **Clinton M.** felt as they listened to Rev. Daniels' sermon, as he is only 15 years old, about the same age as themselves. Even more amazing to the youth was finding out that Rev. Daniels began preaching when he was only six years old.

## Tallulah Regional Office

**Administrative Coordinator 4 Frances Kennedy** was honored with a retirement party on July 24<sup>th</sup>. Frances has been with OJJ since 1971. The office cooked lunch for her and then had a “surprise” reception with cake and goodies. Frances will be truly missed in the Tallulah office. OJJ wishes to extend heartfelt thanks to Frances for 38 years of dedicated service.



*Frances Kennedy*

## Probation and Parole Week

Our office celebrated each day. Officers received doughnuts and gifts bags, breakfast one day and lunch the next, followed by ice cream and cake. The week was topped off with Certificates of Appreciation.

Thanks to our **RM Ruth Stephens** and our supervisors for their show of appreciation.

## Thibodaux Regional Office

### Congratulations

**PPO2 Ja’Nise Williams - Employee of the Month**

**PPS Andi Ford - Supervisor of the Quarter**

**PPO2 Rachel Loupe – Officer of the Quarter**

Thibodaux OJJ staff received staff their annual PPCT Recertification Training.

### Letter of Praise Received

**PPO2 Rachel Loupe** was recognized in a letter of praise. **Regional Manager Kelly Clement** received the letter, which was read to staff, regarding the assistance given by Rachel to a youth in St. Charles Parish. Praise was given to her and all of the employees who work in St. Charles Parish.

### Probation and Parole Week

We observed Probation, Parole and Community Supervision week with doughnuts for breakfast on Wednesday, and Jean Day on Thursday. Last month a barbecue was given by **RM Kelly Clement** and the supervisors to show appreciation.

Special thanks to **RM Kelly Clement** and supervisors **Connie Becnel, Robert Duet, Andi Ford, Vicky Marcel, and Lorraine Thibodaux.**



AUGUST 2009

# The Inside Scoop...of OJJ

*The Inside Scoop...of OJJ* is published monthly to communicate with and about OJJ staff in offices and facilities throughout the state, about agency activities, happenings and items of interest.

*The Inside Scoop...of OJJ* is produced by the Central Office with input from staff statewide.

...until next month

## OJJ Administrative Team

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Paula Merrick-Roddy, *Deputy Undersecretary*  
Carolyn B. Lewis, *Deputy Assistant Secretary, Community Based Services*  
Philippe Magloire, *Deputy Assistant Secretary, Facilities*  
Ellyn Peterson, *Chief of Operations, Continuous Quality Improvement Services*  
Michelle Smith, *Deputy Assistant Secretary, Special Projects*  
Marlyn Goins-McCants, *Family & Community Liaison*  
Kim B. Mims, *Director of Education*  
Martha Morgan, *General Counsel*  
Gwendolyn Jones, *Human Resources Director*  
Dawson Andrews, *Information Technology Director*  
Jerel M. Giarrusso, APR, *Communications Director*

## Contacts

For more information contact [Jerel.Giarrusso@la.gov](mailto:Jerel.Giarrusso@la.gov)  
225.287.7898

Family and Community Liaison  
Tel. 225.287.7985  
Tollfree 1.800.594.3941

## Reporters

Alexandria: Sharon Graham  
Baton Rouge: Michelle Thomas  
Bridge City: Cassandra Washington & Monique Jones  
Central Office: Anne Carter & Katherine Abrams  
Hammond: Courtney Pegues  
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Shreveport: Kristen McKee & Kristi Martin  
Swanson: Kristi Walker  
Tallulah: LaJuana Harrell  
Thibodaux: Allison Lirrette

## **SPEAK (Special Projects, Expertise and Knowledge)**

Michelle Smith, *Deputy Asst. Secretary, Special Projects*  
Jerel Giarrusso, *Communications Director*  
Fran Martin, *Director of Staff Development*  
Shaeki Shanklin – *Administrative Coordinator*